

the people who are living in Hong Kong in the same category? Secondly, has the Government of India got any representation from the citizens of Indian origin and what is their stand? Have they represented to the Government of India for any consideration?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: There are several million people in Hong Kong but most of them, or a majority, are of Chinese origin and they would have got Chinese citizenship. This question is about those who are holding British Dependent Territories Passports and most of the Indians are covered in that category. They are given an option to have a British National Overseas Passport and I have given the date, up to 1997. So, they would be given the status of citizens, British citizens and if the agreement between Britain and China is accepted they are ready to stay in Hong Kong.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I asked whether the Government has received any representation from the citizens of Indian origin and in it, what do they want really?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Actually several representations have been received, a number of times, by the Government of India and that is why the Government of India had discussions both with the British Government on the one hand and the Chinese on the other and the views finally arrived at have been conveyed recently. Just now I said that the British Government is of the view that they could not be given British citizenship. They have given them passports.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Have you finally accepted that?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: The discussions are still continuing.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Sir, the stand of the British Government is very clear from the reply of the hon. Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take up this issue in the international fora.

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been taken up.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: It was not answered by the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that. Mr. Minister, are you going to take it up with the British Government?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: We are continuing the dialogue.

Linkage of Major Rivers

144. **SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 958 on February 28, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has since carried out the studies on linking of major rivers for development of the country's water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the steps taken to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) The National Water Development Agency was set up in 1982 to undertake studies on 17 water transfer links as envisaged in the Peninsular Rivers Development Component of the National Perspectives for water resources development of the country. As programmed, the Agency completed preliminary feasi-

bility reports on 5 water transfer links by the end of Seventh Plan (1989-90). The Agency has completed during 1990-91 studies on 2 more such links and is likely to complete the studies on the remaining links by 1994-95. The water transfer links for which preliminary feasibility reports have been prepared are as under:

1. Mahanadi—Godavari (Dowaliswaram).
2. Godavari (Polavaram)—Krishna (Vijayawada).
3. Par—Tapi.
4. West flowing rivers of Kerala—Vaigai.
5. Ken—Betwa.
6. Godavari (Inchampalli)—Krishna (Pulichintala).
7. Parbati—Kalisindh—Chambal.

The preliminary feasibility reports of these 7 links have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for their comments.

Details of various studies carried out so far by the Agency are given in Annexure. The programme of the Agency is being carried on, as scheduled, and there is no delay.

ANNEXURE

Details of Studies Carried out by National Water Development Agency

Sl. No.	Item	Unit	Total Work assessed	Work done upto 3/90 end of the VII Plan	Work programme/ progress for 1991-92		Targets for 1991-92
					Target	Achievement	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Peninsular Component							
1.	Collection of data of basins.	Nos.	137	137	Work Completed		
2.	Water Balance Studies						
	(a) Sub-basin	Nos.	137	85	15	18	} 23
	(b) Identified diversion points.	Nos.	49	21	8	9	
3.	Studies of Identified storages.	Nos.	58	45	5	6	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Toposheet Studies of Links including identification of command area enroute.	Nos.	17	8	3	3	2
5.	Preparation of preliminary feasibility report of link projects.	Nos.	17	5	2	2	2
				(To continue)		(to continue)	
6.	Taking up Survey and investigation of link canal.	Nos.	15	..	3	3	3

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement laid by the honourable Minister on the Table of the House says that the National Water Development Agency was set up in 1982 to undertake studies on 17 water transfer links and it has prepared feasibility report, for 7 water transfer links upto 1991. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't read it out, you please ask the question.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: During 9 years the Government has prepared feasibility reports only. May I know the number of water transfer links out of these seven, for which feasibility reports have been completed, which will be included in the proposed scheme? Alongwith that the Minister has mentioned Ken, Betwa, Parbati, Kalisindh and Chambal. May I know whether your study on these schemes is complete and the time by which this scheme will be started and the command area which will be irrigated under this scheme?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are seven projects for which feasibility reports have been prepared as given in the statement. Accordingly, all these seven schemes are such for which a scheme can be prepared in future. For the present the function of National

Water Development Agency was only to study whether the proposals were feasible or not and according to the study these proposals have been considered feasible. Out of 17 projects, study on 7 have been completed and study on the remaining 10 is yet incomplete. They have to work on these projects, and since it involves heavy amount of money, it is a complex problem. It is a political and inter-state problem. Therefore, it is very difficult to say any thing in this regard for the future. A statement with regard to the feasibility has been given.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first part of my question is answered but the last part still remains to be answered and that is the command area to be irrigated and the position thereof?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, has said that the details are still awaited.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: A team of United Nations visited India to solve the problem of water. In its Report the team said that the problem of water was an extremely a complex one and within 30 years there would be acute shortage of water in India. They had given two suggestions. First suggestion was to construct a channel from Brahmaputra to Farakka and further link it with the Ganges. Second suggestion was that the water of the Ganges

might be diverted to Kaveri through Sone river. With these two schemes the water problem of entire Northern India and Western India will be solved. I would like to know from the honourable Minister the action taken by the Government on the Report of the United Nations and whether this report was taken into account in this study.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: There is not need to consult the United Nations about the intricacy of these questions. All of us, who are present here, understand how intricate these questions are. The study is being conducted by National Water Development Agency on these questions to solve all these intricacies. When we reach that level, that stage of taking some action in this matter, we will prepare a detailed scheme and make efforts to implement it. Presently, we are only studying.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: What was the need of a study to be conducted by the United Nations?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Charles.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I am happy to note that the National Water Development Agency has done some splendid work during the last six years. The preliminary feasibility reports of these 7 links have been completed.

Coming to Kerala, it reminds me of the beautiful one line verse, "Water-water everywhere but not a drop to drink." It is a question of poverty in the midst of plenty. There are a number of small rivers all flowing to the sea. If this project that is the linking of the West flowing rivers of Kerala with Vaigai is implemented, it will solve the entire problem of the State during the flood and the drought. I understand that some information has to come from the Government of Kerala. Through you, Sir, I assure the hon. Minister that all required information will be supplied within a couple of months. So, may

I know from the hon. Minister whether this prestigious project will be included in the 8th Plan and the whole work completed in a time bound programme?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, hon. Member has himself said that the scheme will be submitted by the Government of Kerala in next two months. The Government will consider the schemes when they are received.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, whether the then Power and Irrigation Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, had prepared and approved a comprehensive, viable, implementable scheme in joining all the major rivers of this country, if so, whether the Government is considering to completely hand over its execution, functioning and collection of proportional amounts on the investments made directly from the beneficiaries which will be handed over to the World Bank or IMF instead of mortgaging such schemes in a piecemeal method as you did it for industries. You have already opened the gates for the World Bank or IMF investments or NRI investment for industries, I would like to know from the hon. Minister can this Government not follow the same thing for this important irrigation and power project which will solve the country's irrigation and power problems.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, Dr. K. L. Rao and envisaged in early 70s a scheme of this kind. It was not really a scheme. It was only a proposal to examine the feasibility of Ganga Kaveri link and some other links of this kind. On examination Dr. Rao himself had said at that time that is 70s, that the scheme will cost about Rs. 12500 crores in 1972. But the Central Water and Power Commission went into the matter later on and found out that this figure of Rs. 12500 crores was grossly under-estimated and, therefore, this can not be considered in the present context.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: Sir, this problem is concerning the whole country regarding irrigation and power shortage. I want to know why can't the hon. Minister take a decision in handing over the entire project to the World Bank or NRIs, as he did it in industries?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we get assistance of world body only when we consider it essential and necessary and in the national interest. This project has not gone upto that extent where any such assistance can be thought of.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to step up irrigation facilities, the scheme of linking rivers is under consideration for long, and irrigated area will not increase until work on these schemes is not started. Seventeen schemes to join these rivers is under consideration and the honourable Minister has said that reports for 7 schemes have been received till now. I would like to know from the honourable Minister the names of the schemes about which reports have been collected and the schemes about which the report are being prepared and which are the ten schemes under study? The honourable Minister may also be pleased to state the schemes sent to Madhya Pradesh Government for their opinion and when the schemes were sent?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All these details, you can give it in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should give notice of a separate question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is sending it to you in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Honourable Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister said just now that it involved inter-state and other problems, but I

would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister to the fact that there are certain states where there are no problems, as in the case of joining Dhasan and Ken rivers. This matter is under consideration. In this case there is neither any complex problem of that area nor anything else, but the people of that area are worried about irrigation and this area is in a great need of drinking water. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether he is sending the proposal to his Ministry for joining these 3 rivers as there is no complex problem or any inter-state dispute. How much time it would take to finalise it and how much time it would take to accept this proposal?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many intricate problems. The biggest and the most intricate problem is of resources. Unless we have sufficient resources, the Ministry has to face difficulty because these schemes involve a huge expenditure. So these can't be taken up.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the most important question which the Minister is trying to avoid, for the simple reason that I am from Uttar Pradesh and the honourable Minister is from Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would have disallowed your question. But I allowed your question.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I would like to focus the attention of the hon. Minister to the question regarding Maharashtra. In spite of heavy rainfall, we are facing severe shortage of water for six months in a year, in the coastal region. Has any special study been carried out in the coastal region which has been declared a problem area for drinking water?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not allowed.
Q. No. 145.